

Chief Moore,

We are writing to provide our comments on the U.S. Forest Service's recently released Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) concerning the conservation and monitoring of old-growth forests. As Christians deeply committed to the protection and healing of God's Creation, we commend the Forest Service for taking this important step towards fulfilling President Biden's Executive Order to strengthen the nation's forests. However, we believe that the final policy must be significantly improved to provide robust and lasting protections for mature and old-growth forests. Specifically, the final policy must include concrete actions to protect and recover old-growth forests that have been lost over the past centuries.

The final record of decision should:

- End the cutting of old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.
- End any commercial exchange of old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where an old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.
- Remove the exception that allows for “de minimis” logging of old-growth trees.
- Eliminate the agency discretion to manage old growth out of existence in pursuit of “proactive stewardship” goals.

These forests are vital for clean air and water, wildlife habitats, and preventing soil erosion and flooding. Logging old-growth trees to save the forest is a false solution; they are worth far more standing than as timber.

As a person of faith, I believe that God calls us to be healers and restorers of the Earth, safeguarding the intricate web of creation that sustains us all. Trees have a significant place in our Christian tradition. From the Tree of Life in Genesis to the trees lining the river of the water of life in Revelation, trees are sacred symbols of God's enduring presence and care.

By safeguarding mature forests, we can ensure they become the old-growth of future generations. The policy must establish meaningful protections for both mature and old-growth forests to address the most pressing environmental challenges of our time. Our actions today will determine the health and wellbeing of God's Creation for generations to come.

I urge the Forest Service to finalize a strong policy that truly protects our mature and old-growth forests, enhancing the resilience and wellbeing of all of God's Creation.

In Faith,

Alan Coulter  
Allyson Czechowic  
Amy Durkee

Andrew Jennings-Grisham  
Anne Petrokubi  
Anne Price  
Brenda Horst  
Brenda Mehos  
Bro. Mitchell Schweickart  
Carrie Roach  
Carol Bahmueller  
Charles Widney  
Cheryl Robison  
Cheryl Schaff  
D Lowe  
David Hope-Tringali  
Derrick Weston  
Doig Beers  
Donna Robbins  
Dr Margaret Ellen Brown  
Dr. Alison Woomert  
Dr. Clarice Hutchens  
Dr. David Andes  
Dr. Diane Tomkinson  
Dr. Diane Tomkinson OSF  
Dr. Donald DeBruyn  
Dr. Etsuko Hoshino-Browne  
Dr. Frances Nosbisch  
Dr. Jesse Turner  
Dr. John Crandell  
Dr. Joyce Sutcliffe  
Dr. Lee Alekel  
Dr. Marc Imlay  
Dr. Mary Raven  
Dr. Nancy Corson Carter  
Dr. Pamela Jensen  
Dr. Patricia Hoffman  
Dr. Rev. Dr. David Sickles  
Dr. Richard Shore  
Dr. Ruth Padilla DeBorst  
Dr. Ryan Juskus  
Dr. Stephen Long  
Dr. Steven Bouma-Prediger  
Dr. Steven Holzberg  
Dr. Terry LePage  
Dr. Therese Dougherty  
Dr. Thomas Martinez

Dr. Virginia Jones  
Elizabeth Floyd  
Gabrielle Irle  
Ginnie Ferrell  
Ginny Ayers  
Heather Phelps  
Howard Henry  
James Russ  
Jane Peachey  
Janet Mazzaroppi  
Jared Sittig  
Jay Cantwell  
Jean Chandler  
Jim Shields  
John Y  
Judy Beers  
Julian Reid  
Katherine Grosh  
Kathy Sandknop  
Kay Rolfs Massaglia  
Kristina Shaneyfelt  
Kristy Meyer  
Laura Faulk  
Laura Kamperman  
Laurie Konwinski  
Lela Lawrence-Moiso  
M Kirwin  
Marilyn Colyar  
Mary Ann McCarthy  
Mary Anna White  
Mary-Lee Bouma  
Megan Roberts  
Micah Modesto  
Michael Jensen  
Michele Olson  
Miss Val Keller  
Mr Bertino Marro  
Mr Edward Laurson  
Mr George Bond  
Mr Jason Miller  
Mr Phillip Hope  
Mr Bernardo Alayza Mujica  
Mr. Art Hanson  
Mr. Avery Lamb

Mr. Bill Bowman  
Mr. Bob Shippee  
Mr. Brian Mateer  
Mr. Dan Esposito  
Mr. Daniel Prechtel  
Mr. Danny Watson  
Mr. David Antos  
Mr. Derek Gendvil  
Mr. Doug Franklin  
Mr. Edward Williams  
Mr. Eric Paul Jacobsen  
Mr. Glen Williams  
Mr. Henry Zorn  
Mr. Ian Lynch  
Mr. James Herther  
Mr. Jerry Rivers  
Mr. John Oda  
Mr. John Wheeler  
Mr. Joseph Rabenstine  
Mr. Ken Canty  
Mr. Kirk Ramble  
Mr. Lindsay Bishop  
Mr. Mark Hite  
Mr. Mark Meeks  
Mr. Mark Smith  
Mr. Michael Hodgson  
Mr. Nelson Bock  
Mr. NewTED UserJOHNSTONE  
Mr. Paul Brown  
Mr. Phil Miller  
Mr. Rhoden Streeter  
Mr. Richard Coddling  
Mr. Richard Patenaude  
Mr. Robert Wall  
Mr. San Williams  
Mr. Scott Kennedy  
Mr. Sergei Kapral  
Mr. Stephen Weissman  
Mr. Steve Callahan  
Mr. Thomas Karwaki  
Mr. Thomas Miller  
Mr. Thomas Quinn  
Mr. Tim Diemer  
Mr. Timothy Edward Duda

Mr. Wayne Alt  
Mr. P Bryer  
Mrs Dawn Dole  
Mrs Lana Green  
Mrs Laura Henry  
Mrs Linta Bryant  
Mrs Ruth Bowen  
Mrs Sandra Finney  
Mrs. Ann DeRooy  
Mrs. Ann Leonardelli  
Mrs. Ann Smith  
Mrs. Barbara Fichtenberg  
Mrs. Barbara Norris  
Mrs. Bennie Scott  
Mrs. Beverly Antonio  
Mrs. Char Hoffman  
Mrs. Donna Vass  
Mrs. Elaine Swaine  
Mrs. Elisabeth Shewmaker  
Mrs. Eliza Phillips  
Mrs. Gaye Smith  
Mrs. Glenn Ross  
Mrs. Jacquie Caravello  
Mrs. Jane Dow  
Mrs. Janis Roddy  
Mrs. Jeanette Berry  
Mrs. Jessica Monahan  
Mrs. Julie Skelton  
Mrs. Katherine Weix  
Mrs. Kathryn Gossard  
Mrs. Katie Rhodes  
Mrs. Kim Richmond  
Mrs. Leslie Leach  
Mrs. Luci Wright  
Mrs. Lynette Miller  
Mrs. Margaret Hummel  
Mrs. Margot VanEtten  
Mrs. Maria Blaney  
Mrs. Marie Bianca  
Mrs. Mariellyn Grace  
Mrs. Marilee Lampman  
Mrs. Martha Farone  
Mrs. Martha Rogers  
Mrs. Martha Spencer

Mrs. Mary Ann Viveros  
Mrs. Melissa Carlson  
Mrs. Michelle Dugan  
Mrs. Nancy Koppersmith  
Mrs. Nancy Ross  
Mrs. Polly Rutherford  
Mrs. Rebecca Burmester  
Mrs. Sandra Hostetler  
Mrs. Sarah Fleming  
Mrs. Sharon Kimmel  
Mrs. Susan McGarvey  
Mrs. Susan Starkey  
Mrs. Susan Webb  
Mrs. Theresa Rieve  
Mrs. Tiffany Marsh  
Mrs. Tori Jowers  
Mrs. Veronique Eberhart  
Mrs. Jackie Thiry  
Mrs. Jane Wiley  
Mrs. Nancy D'angelo  
Ms Antoinette Emch  
Ms Cheryl Robison  
Ms Connie Raper  
Ms Elaine Becker  
Ms Holly Rockwell  
Ms Janelle Zigon  
Ms Karen Loganbill  
Ms Kathy Kilmer  
Ms Lacey Hicks  
Ms Nancy Urban  
Ms Twyla Meyer  
Ms. Amy Compestine  
Ms. Anne Boxall  
Ms. Barbara Carr  
Ms. Barbara Eveland  
Ms. Brittany Phelps  
Ms. Carla Macchello  
Ms. Carmela Garofalo  
Ms. Carol Devoss  
Ms. Carol Gilbertson  
Ms. Carol Jean Suitor  
Ms. Christiane Citron  
Ms. Cindy Rains  
Ms. Cleo Hagen

Ms. Danielle Miller  
Ms. Dawn Albanese  
Ms. Deb Baker  
Ms. Deborah Borst  
Ms. DeeAnn Stenlund  
Ms. Dorothy Jean Beyer  
Ms. Elana Katz Rose  
Ms. Eleanor Goekler  
Ms. Elizabeth M O'Brien  
Ms. Elizabeth O'Brien  
Ms. Elizabeth Terry  
Ms. Eva D'Intino  
Ms. France White  
Ms. Frances Hoffman  
Ms. Helen Schall  
Ms. Henrietta Van Konynenburg  
Ms. Holly Woodson  
Ms. JL Angell  
Ms. Jan Warren  
Ms. Janet Matthews  
Ms. Jean Stolle  
Ms. Jenna Cobb  
Ms. Jennifer DeNetz  
Ms. Jessica Sun  
Ms. Joan Shanahan  
Ms. Joanie Cahill  
Ms. Joanne Ball Artis  
Ms. Joanne Tenney  
Ms. Joyce Stoffers  
Ms. Judith Ackerman  
Ms. Judith Sandeen  
Ms. Judith Traeger  
Ms. Karen Smith  
Ms. Karla Devine  
Ms. Kathryn Rose  
Ms. Kathryn White  
Ms. Kathy Bradley  
Ms. Kathy Newman  
Ms. Kirstin De Mello  
Ms. Koyla Braun-Greiner  
Ms. Lauren Gioe  
Ms. Lauren Murdock  
Ms. Laurie Konwinski  
Ms. Leola Specht

Ms. Linda Drake  
Ms. Linda Granato  
Ms. Lisa Sadleir-Hart  
Ms. Lynn Pieron  
Ms. Margaret Doherty  
Ms. Margaret Leonard  
Ms. Margaret Moody-Ulmer  
Ms. Maria Asteinza  
Ms. Marianne Rathman  
Ms. Martha Phillips  
Ms. Mary C Bunting  
Ms. Mary Casey  
Ms. Mary Fitzpatrick  
Ms. Mary Hamilton  
Ms. Mary Mendenhall  
Ms. Maryellen Redish  
Ms. Maxine Pohlman  
Ms. Pam Thomas-Hill  
Ms. Patricia Gillis  
Ms. Patricia Wong  
Ms. Phoebe Chatfield  
Ms. Phoebe Morad  
Ms. Phyllis Brandt  
Ms. Rita Cummins  
Ms. Riva Fralick  
Ms. Robin Murray  
Ms. Rosie Miller  
Ms. Ruth Striegel  
Ms. Sharon Kelly  
Ms. Sandra McKittrick  
Ms. Sarah Windes  
Ms. Sheila Fant  
Ms. Sherrill Futrell  
Ms. Sr. Barbara King  
Ms. Susan Anderson-Smith  
Ms. Susan Entin  
Ms. Susan Kalan  
Ms. Susan Kimmet  
Ms. Suzy Clarkson Holstein  
Ms. Taylor Youngblood  
Ms. Tonya Eza  
Ms. Vernita Kennen  
Ms. Virginia Douglas  
Ms. Christina Fuller



Mx. Michelle Chavez  
Patricia Lagerwey  
Paul Oostenbrug  
Paula Walker  
Peggy Ma  
Philip Pegan  
Pr. Baird Linke  
Professor Susan Lea Smith  
Rev Chrystal Smallwood  
Rev Daniel Wright  
Rev David Florence  
Rev David Johnson  
Rev Elinor Stock  
Rev Jeffrey Elliott  
Rev Julia Brown  
Rev Lisa Jean Hoefner  
Rev Lynne Grifo  
Rev Phillip Myers  
Rev Sharon Felton  
Rev Shaye Champ Correll  
Rev. Andrew Kang Bartlett  
Rev. Charlene Hinckley  
Rev. Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford  
Rev. Christopher Czarnecki  
Rev. Christopher Promis  
Rev. Doris Chandler  
Rev. Dr. Christopher Ross  
Rev. Dr. Kathleen Mills  
Rev. Dr. Rachael Lawrence  
Rev. Ellen Johnson-Price  
Rev. Heather Branton  
Rev. Jeffrey Courter  
Rev. Julie Webb  
Rev. Mark Lindberg  
Rev. Melissa Engel  
Rev. Michael Mulberry  
Rev. Ryan Fitch